

Dear Legislators:

I hope this email finds you with open ears and hearts. I writing in regards to the required Collaborative Agreement between Nurse Practitioners and Physicians. My name is Julie and I am a Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in your state. I have been passionately treating children and families in a child guidance clinic for 6 years and started up a private practice while continuing to work at my other clinic full-time. The amount of energy it has taken to not only treat more clients (and there are many people in this state with psychiatric needs) and figure out how to start up my own business is phenomenal. I am feverishly working 7 days a week to uphold professional standards, effectively treat the needs of my clients and seeking supervision via several different groups of APRN's.

Most importantly, I still have not found a collaborating psychiatrist. I have sought out referrals from coworkers and colleagues from my professional ties to Yale School of Nursing, the agency I currently work for and the private practice that I have joined. There are several collaborative groups already established with close ties and are not inviting new APRN's in to join them. There are psychiatrists that do not know me well and quite frankly sounded interested at first but then blew me off, repeatedly. I've cold called multiple psychiatrists without any phone calls returned. I've asked the psychiatrists that I work with at my current job and it is a conflict of interest. I just found one psychiatrist that I used to work with who is in NYC and charges \$300/hour for supervision and I may just HAVE to pay her so that I can be compliant with this statute. In addition, one of the APRN's in my supervision group has told me that she worked at an agency and they didn't have a collaborative agreement for the whole year that she worked there. What is a nurse to do? Shall I stop treating those in need? I do not think that this is the answer but I feel very anxious about my difficulty finding a collaborating psychiatrist.

I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and hope you take into consideration that I am seeking appropriate supervision, thoughtful about my patients' care and trying my best. I would like to see more flexible guidelines that may include the need for peer supervision perhaps from an interdisciplinary approach for practicing APRN's or at minimum more structured programs to offer supervision and collaboration within the field of psychiatry, psychology and social work.

Sincerely,
Julie Gombieski, APRN